Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01718 190953Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 MED-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /030 W

-----057400 200959Z/23

R 180615Z AUG 78 FM USINT BAGHDAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630 INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 1718

DEPT FOR NEA/ARN; KUWAIT FOR RMO

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: APER, CGEN

SUBJECT: RELEAST FOR FSL: MEDICAL EXAMINATION

REF: BAGHDAD 1586 (NOTAL)

- 1. RMO REED EXAMINED ABBAS ON AUGUST 14 AND LISTENED TO THE DETAILS OF HIS SUFFERINS. ON THE BASIS OF THE EXAMINATION, DR. REED CONCLUDES THAT EXCEPT FOR BEING OVERWEIGHT AND HAVING HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, ABBAS IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD SPIRITS. LIKE US, DR. REED IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT ABBAS IS SO FIT AFTER ALL HE REPORTS HAVING GONE THROUGH.
- 2. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THE SEVENTEEN BEATINGS
 THAT ABBAS SAYS HE RECEIVED, BUT GIVEN THE FACT THAT
 THEY ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARREST IN
 JUNE OF 1977, THIS IS NEITHER SURPRISING NOR
 CONCLUSIVE. THE SAME APPLIES TO THE MANY NEEDLES
 THAT WERE STUCK INTO HIS RIGHT SIDE. A TOOTH HAS
 INDEED BEEN BROKEN OFF, AND THERE IS A SCARRED AREA ON
 HIS LEFT FOREARM, BUT THE CAUSES MAY OR MAY NOT BE
 AS STATED.
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3. THE FINGER AND TOENAIL EXTRACTION STORY IS THE ONE THAT HAS CAUSED ME TO BE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL: ABBAS' FINGERS AND FINGERNALS LOOK PERFECTLY NORMAL TO AN UNTRAINED EYE. DR. REED DID NOT FIND ANY INDICATION OF EXTRACTION, BUT DOES NOT CLAIM EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD. HE INTENDS TO INQUIRE OF MED IF THERE WOULD

NORMALLY BE SOME SIGNS OF SUCH CASES.

4. THE ISSUE IS NOT CRITICAL IN ANY EVENT. THE IRAQI SECURITY FORCES ARE NOT KNOWN FOR THEIR HUMANISTIC APPROACH TO THE OBTENTION OF INFORMATION, AND ABBAS WAS CERTAINLY NOT HANDLED BY SOCIOLOGIST. WE ARE VERY GLAD HE IS OUT AND WILLING AND ABLE TO RESUME WORKING WITH US. PECK

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